

**REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005**

Members Present: Robert K. Pagani-Chairman, Robert J. Clements, Richard J. Cleary, Vaughn E. Gerber, Mark A. Joyse, Barry C. Pinto

Others Present: S. Costello, Chmn Conservation Comm, D. Hurley, W. Moody-Conservation Comm. Members, R. McCarty-Tax Assessor, P. Lombardo-Tax Collector, N. DiCorelto-Fin Off, M. Davis-Town Planner

Chairman Robert Pagani called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2005 AS WRITTEN. CLEARY ABSTAINED.

Land Preservation

Shawn Costello, 1 Sugar Hill Rd, Chairman of the Conservation Commission and members David Hurley, 13 Standish Rd and Walter Moody, 32 E. Shore Rd along with Matthew Davis-Town Planner presented to the Board of Finance what the goal of the commission is. Conservation and Wetlands were one board until they were separated. The Wetlands Commission is now a regulatory body and the Conservation Commission is involved in land preservation, open space and keeping land from being developed. They are analyzing the properties in Town and looking for opportunities to purchase properties that are in the best interest of the Town. They are watching for properties that connect with other Town's open space. In particular they have been instrumental in purchasing property on Porter Rd to connect the two portions of the Shenipsit State Forest.

Tolland has \$2 million for open space acquisition and other Towns have programs in place. The Commission has been using grants to make these purchases. However, to get the grants, the Town has to participate in the funding. In this next budget the Commission will be budgeting funds for legal fees, appraisals, and studies. They need to consider where the funds for these items will come from. This year the funds have come from sources other than their budget. The budget of \$2,500 was used mostly to pay an intern to update the mapping system.

Up to now, basically nothing was actively done to preserve open space. Things have been starting to happen and people are coming to the Commission with land they would like to sell or donate, however, they do not have the funds to work with.

Mr. Hurley stated that the Build-Out Study produced a major concern for open space. Townspeople feel this is an issue that should be addressed, but the funds need to be in place so the Commission can jump on viable opportunities. He is asking the Board of Finance to consider setting up funding for acquisitions of properties as well as the administrative items.

Rhonda McCarty, Tax Assessor, stated that her department is responsible for the updates to the parcels on the GIS system. Their goal is to have it done on a monthly basis but there are budget restraints. Mr. Pagani asked her to work with the Town Planner to let the Board of Finance know how much more is needed to keep this current. This affects all Town departments.

The Town Planner stated that at the request of the First Selectman, he put together a recommendation and plan to increase the fees to include some of these added expenses. There has not been anything done to implement these fees at this time. He also stated that the budget request from the Conservation Commission will be significantly higher this year due to moving of expenses from other commissions and the added expenses discussed tonight.

Mr. Pagani stated that next Tuesday the Board of Finance will discuss the funding of this further.

Presentations by Tax Assessor and Tax Collector

Rhonda McCarty, Tax Assessor, presented her report for the 2004 Grand List. The grand list grew by 4.44% over the 2003 list and was completed on time. She also stated that the 2005 Revaluation has begun with some data entry work.

Pam Lombardo, Tax Collector, presented her report and is recommending that 98.5% collection rate be budgeted for the 2005-06 fiscal year, and back collections of \$365,000.

Chairman Pagani commended them both on a job well done.

The Finance Officer cautioned the Board of Finance not to budget the projected prorates too high for the 2005-06 year. The actuals this year have come in lower than budgeted.

Transfers/Additional Appropriations FY 2003-04

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$133,681 FROM ACCOUNT 950-INSURANCE TO THE ACCOUNTS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE FROM UNRESERVED GENERAL FUND BALANCE 03-04 \$84,546 TO ACCOUNT 439-TOWN ROAD AID WINTER \$32,723; ACCOUNT 455-SANITARY RECYCLING \$49,684 AND CAP NON-REC FUND LOCIP \$2,139 AND TO RECOMMEND SAME TO A TOWN MEETING.

MOTION (GERBER) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO INCREASE PREPAID GRANTS AND FUNDS FULLY REIMBURSABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2003 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2004 AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SAME TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$163,534. NEW ALLOCATION TOTAL IS \$727,634 (\$564,100 APPROVED AT TOWN MEETING MAY 13, 2003 PLUS \$163,534) AND TO SEND SAME TO A TOWN MEETING.

MOTION (PINTO) SECONDED (GERBER) AND PASSED TO CONSIDER CLOSING OUT THE LIEBMAN PROPERTY PROJECT BALANCE OF \$23,689.02 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-04, THE BALANCE TO BE APPLIED AGAINST DEBT PAYMENTS AND TO CONSIDER CLOSING OUT THE 82 MAPLE STREET ACQUISITION PROPERTY PROJECT BALANCE OF \$5,064.17 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-04, THE BALANCE TO BE APPLIED AGAINST DEBT PAYMENTS, AND TO SEND TO A TOWN MEETING.

New Business

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO ADD 2005-06 BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET TO THE AGENDA.

Board of Finance Budget

The only change to the Board of Finance budget from last year is in the Auditors account due to their contract.

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET ACCOUNT 120-BOARD OF FINANCE AT \$7,250 FOR FY 2005-06.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET ACCOUNT 121-AUDITORS AT \$28,500 FOR FY 2005-06.

MOTION (GERBER) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET ACCOUNT 122-AUDITORS SPECIAL PROJECTS AT \$100 FOR FY 2005-06.

MOTION (GERBER) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET ACCOUNT 1010-CONTINGENCY FUND AT \$125,000 FOR FY 2005-06.

MOTION (PINTO) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET ACCOUNT 1011-CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AT \$100 FOR FY 2005-06.

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled.

The report was noted and Chairman Pagani stated that the Board needs to know what the dollar amount will be to know how it will affect the budget.

Auditors

Chairman Pagani stated that the auditors have sent an invoice asking for additional funds for additional work they have had to do this year. This is because they did not have the usual assistance they are accustomed to from the Finance Officer due to his recent illness.

Adjournment

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:50 PM.

Submitted by _____
Lori Smith, Clerk